It is like the story of Jacques Loeb and his incitation of an unfertilized egg of a sea-urchin by means of some simple salt added to the water, with the result that the egg began to develop in normal fashion. This of course was merely a new instance of parthenogenetic development, of which many others are known. But Loeb and his admirers always seemed to hold fast to the delusion that either Loeb or the salt water caused and effected and achieved the morphogenesis of the growing sea-urchin and that, at any rate, it was a triumphant and clinching demonstration of the correctness of Loeb's mechanical views; all of which was, of course, pure and gross error.

The reader should note that Huxley begins by speaking of the egg ᶜ which at first is unorganized ', that he speaks of its acquisition of an organization as being now * explainable in material terms'; and that he professes to justify this by reciting the story of the ' organizer '. Here the suggestion is that all eggs consist merely of undifferentiated protoplasm and that the acquisition by the embryo of this or that organization with all its specific peculiarities is the work of ('the organizer'. Whereas, of course, the exact opposite is the truth : ' the organizer ' *is* perfectly non-specific; the egg, whatever the ground of the fact, whatever the nature of its specific potentiality, does possess the potentiality of developing into a complex organism of its own species—that is to say, one closely resembling its parents; and the organizer merely facilitates in some way, or constitutes a favouring, perhaps a

necessary condition of, the organizing process ; but if so, then one which is normally produced from within the egg's own resources.

Needham seems to get some glimmer of the truth ; for, after showing that the organizer is a chemical substance,